

CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Code Enforcement Board (the Board) was held in the Commission Chambers at the County Administration Building, 1801 27th Street, Building "A", Vero Beach, Florida on Monday, June 22, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

Present were Chairman **Karl Zimmermann**, Realtor Appointee; **Joe Petrulak**, Subcontractor Appointee; **Joe Garone**, General Contractor Appointee; **John Owens**, Engineer Appointee; **Keith Hedin**, Businessman Appointee and **Dana Stetser**, Architect Appointee.

Absent was **Cliff Suthard**, Member-at-Large Appointee (excused).

Also in attendance was IRC staff: Roland DeBlois, Environmental and Code Enforcement Chief; Don Wixon, Code Enforcement Coordinator; Betty Davis, Vanessa Carter Solomon, Kelly Zedek and Rose Jefferson, Code Enforcement Officers. Others present: Attorney Suzanne Vitunac, Attorney for the Board and Reta Smith, Recording Secretary.

12:38:06 Call to Order

Chairman Zimmermann called the meeting to order and the secretary called the roll, establishing that a quorum was present.

12:38:39 Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2009

ON MOTION BY Mr. Petrulak, SECONDED BY Mr. Hedin, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of May 18, 2009 as presented.

12:39:05 Attorney's Overview of Board Purpose and Procedures

Attorney Vitunac gave a brief overview of the procedures and purpose of the Code Enforcement Board.

12:42:58 Agenda Additions or Deletions, Consent Items

Mr. Don Wixon, Code Enforcement Coordinator, reported the following cases

1:39:38 **Case #2009050079 – KRG Indian River LLC (Corporation Service Company)**

Mr. Wixon related this case involved landscape maintenance and site plan nonconformance violations. Inspector Davis submitted photographs into evidence, which are on file in the Commission Office, and described dead and missing landscape on the site.

Respondent Mr. Eugene Pulpo (1:41:39) said he had met with Inspector Davis and was working on remedying the problems. Mr. Wixon recommended an extension of 60 days, until August 21, 2009, for compliance.

1:42:21

ON MOTION BY Mr. Petrulak, SECONDED BY Mr. Owens, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve staff's recommendation. .

It is noted for the record the Respondent's representative was present for this hearing.

1:42:32 **Case #2009050084 – 6350 Shoppes LLC**

Inspector Davis submitted photographs into evidence, which are on file in the Commission Office, and advised this case had to do with landscape maintenance and site plan nonconformance violations.

Respondent Carlos Bolito of Sunflower Landscaping (1:44:11) stated the plants had already been fertilized and it was hoped everything would come back; however if it was necessary to replace landscaping they would do so. Mr. Wixon recommended an extension of 60 days, until August 21, 2009, for compliance.

1:44:37

ON MOTION BY Mr. Hedin, SECONDED BY Mr. Petrulak, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve staff's recommendation.

It is noted for the record the Respondent's representative was present for this hearing.

permit, and how those tied together. As a result of the April, 2009 meeting the Board had clarified the issue and granted a 60 day extension and staff had drafted an Order of Clarification, after which there had been discussion with the Respondent's attorney as to whether or not impact fees would be required in association with the after-the-fact building permit.

Mr. DeBlois distributed a copy of the Order Granting Extension and Clarifying Order Finding Violation, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office, and reviewed it with the Board. He recommended the Board ratify the written Order and grant a further extension of 90 days, until September 25, 2009.

Chairman Zimmermann wondered why the Board was being asked to grant another extension for the Respondent to acquire a building permit when the case had been going on for years with numerous delays. Mr. DeBlois explained because the structure was built in the early 1990's it required engineers drawings, etc.

2:06:43

ON MOTION BY Mr. Petrulak, SECONDED BY Mr. Hedin, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve staff's recommendation.

It is noted for the record the Respondent was not present for this hearing.

LIEN RELEASE REQUESTS

2:07:17 **Case #2008070258 – Modabi Homes of Florida City LLC**

Mr. DeBlois recalled the Evidentiary hearing on this case dated back to September 22, 2008 for overgrown weeds, and on November 24, 2008 the Board had entered an Order Imposing Fine. Inspector Carter Solomon confirmed the property was currently in compliance but there was a question of when compliance had been achieved.

Respondent Phil Zemen (2:10:02), representing the lender on the property, stated he had hired a landscaper to take care of the violation in March, 2009 as soon as he was aware of the lien.

Mr. DeBlois noted the start date for the fine was November 22, 2008 and assuming the property was mowed in mid-March, 2009, it would be approximately 120 days for a flat fine of \$12,000. After some discussion he recommended the

Board reduce the fine to administrative costs in the amount of \$1,800.

2:15:08

ON MOTION BY Mr. Owens, SECONDED BY Mr. Hedin, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve staff's recommendation.

It is noted for the record the Respondent's representative was present for this hearing.

2:16:01 **Case #2008010015 – Kimberly Hubbard**

Mr. DeBlois summarized this was an overgrown weed violation that first came to the Board in July, 2008, and since there was no compliance the Order Imposing Fine had been entered with a start date of August 23, 2008. He confirmed the property had been brought into compliance on May 22, 2009, which was 272 days or a flat fine of \$27,200. Mr. DeBlois related this was not the original respondent but a subsequent owner/banker who had taken action to clean up the site as soon as they had the opportunity. He noted since there was no Order Granting Extension the approximate administrative fee would be \$1,500, which was his recommendation for the fine amount.

2:20:14

ON MOTION BY Mr. Owens, SECONDED BY Mr. Petrulak, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve staff's recommendation.

It is noted for the record Respondent Mr. Dan Ryan, representing Deutsche Bank, was present for this hearing.

2:21:04 **Case #2007110117 – Choicie L. Williams**

Mr. DeBlois recapped the Respondent at the time the Order Finding Violation for overgrown weeds was initiated in January, 2008 was Ms. Choicie L. Williams, with one extension being granted and the fine being imposed by the Board effective March 22, 2008. Inspector Jefferson testified she had observed the property was in compliance on March 2, 2009, and based on this Mr. DeBlois concluded it was 345 days of noncompliance which translated to a flat fine of \$34,500.

Ms. Tricia Gary, Norris & Company Realty, representing Deutsche Bank (2:24:18), said the property had foreclosed in the middle of January and she was

Mr. DeBlois related this had to do with an Order Imposing Fine for overgrown weeds entered by the Board with a start date of March 21, 2009. He stated the Order cited the Respondent Gutierrez and Wells Fargo Bank as the foreclosing bank; however attorneys for the bank had advised the property was still in foreclosure and the bank was not the legal owner. Mr. DeBlois reviewed the attorney's letter dated April 20, 2009 contained in the backup on file in the Commission Office, and recommended the Board release the bank from the Order but retain the Order against Respondent Gutierrez.

Chairman Zimmermann noted in some instances banks took the position that because they had not completed foreclosure they did not really control the property and therefore could not enter the site or hire someone to cut the lawn, while other banks brought properties into compliance. He felt some banks might be using an artificial defense to diffuse the fine and responsibility as long as possible, while other lenders took the opposite attitude.

Attorney Vitunac advised unless a bank had an Order of Foreclosure and Certificate of Title they were not actually a proper respondent; however a lot of times Code Enforcement staff did not know the circumstances and it was in a state of flux. She thought it was proper to include the banks on the notices, and the Board could take their cooperation into consideration when it came time to reduce the fine.

Discussion followed.

Mr. DeBlois confirmed the subject property was not in compliance, and recommended the Board take no action at this time.

It is noted for the record the Respondent was not present for this hearing.

3:10:34 **Case #2009040067 – Steve & Teresa Arnold**

Inspector Davis stated she had not received service on this case.

3:12:38 **Case #2009040137 – Mark & Rebecca Lawrentz**

Inspector Carter Solomon advised she had no service on this case.

3:12:49 **Case #2009040163 – Isabel & Laurie Rodriguez**

She confirmed the property was in compliance as of today; however she wanted a Continuing Order because she had cited the Respondent 11 times since 2002 for overgrown weeds and junk, trash and debris on a vacant lot owned by him.

3:15:48

ON MOTION BY Mr. Petrulak, SECONDED BY Mr. Hedin, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve staff's recommendation.

It is noted for the record the Respondent was not present for this hearing.

3:16:05 **Case #2009040060 – Quillie Joe & Julia Hazellief**

Inspector Jefferson submitted a photograph into evidence, which is on file in the Commission Office, and pointed out overgrown weeds on a vacant lot.

3:16:21

ON MOTION BY Mr. Hedin, SECONDED BY Mr. Petrulak, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to grant an extension of 30 days, until July 24, 2009, for compliance.

It is noted for the record the Respondent was not present for this hearing.

3:16:39 **Case #2009030218 – Jerry Oresky**

Inspector Carter Solomon submitted an Affidavit of Service dated June 12, 2009 and photographs into evidence, which are on file in the Commission Office. She described structure exterior maintenance, trailer storage and junk, trash and debris violations on the property and recommended the Board grant an extension of 60 days, until August 21, 2009, for compliance.

3:17:36

ON MOTION BY Mr. Hedin, SECONDED BY Mr. Owens, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve staff's recommendation.

It is noted for the record the Respondent was not present for this hearing.

3:17:46 **Case #2009050017 – Lots of Indian River LLC**

Inspector Davis advised there was no service on this case.

3:17:53 **Case #209050020 – McNab & McNab “V” Inc. (Sonny’s BBQ)**

Inspector Davis submitted photographs into evidence, which are on file in the Commission Office, and described landscape maintenance violations on the property.

3:1:26

ON MOTION BY Mr. Hedin, SECONDED BY Mr. Petrulak, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to grant an extension of 30 days, until July 24, 2009, for compliance.

It is noted for the record the Respondent was not present for this hearing.

3:18:36 **Case #2009050049 – John & Amanda Missio**

Inspector Davis submitted photographs into evidence, which are on file in the Commission Office. She testified there was an accumulation of junk, trash and debris and boat/trailer storage violations on the property, and recommended an extension of 30 days, until July 24, 2009, for compliance.

3:19:10

ON MOTION BY Mr. Hedin, SECONDED BY Mr. Owens, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve staff's recommendation. .

It is noted for the record the Respondent was not present for this hearing.

3:1:24 **Case #2009050078 – DAF & TAF LLC (Aaron’s Furniture NRAI Services)**

Inspector Davis submitted photographs into evidence, which are on file in the Commission Office, and confirmed this was an issue of landscape maintenance and site plan nonconformance. She recommended an extension of 30 days, until July 24, 2009, for compliance.

3:20:00

ON MOTION BY Mr. Hedin, SECONDED BY Mr.

Garone, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve staff's recommendation.

It is noted for the record the Respondent was not present for this hearing.

3:20:10 **Case #2009050106 – Gardens at River Grove HOA Inc.**

Inspector Davis advised she had not received service on this case.

3:20:26 **Case #2009030003 – Livingston Rolle**

Inspector Zedek submitted an Affidavit of Service dated June 1, 2009 and photographs into evidence, which are on file in the Commission Office. She testified the Respondent was continually storing commercial vehicles and boat trailers on the property, along with junk, trash and debris. Mr. Wixon recommended an extension of 30 days, until July 24, 2009, for compliance.

3:21:16

ON MOTION BY Mr. Petrulak, SECONDED BY Mr. Owens, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve staff's recommendation.

It is noted for the record the Respondent was not present for this hearing.

3:21:23 **Case #200810264 – Equity One (Southpoint) Inc.**

Mr. Wixon related this Compliance hearing involved site plan nonconformance and landscape maintenance violations, and on March 23, 2009 the Board had granted the Respondent 90 days to come into compliance. Inspector Jefferson submitted photographs into evidence, which are on file in the Commission Office, and stated she had not had contact with the Respondent since March, 2009 and the violations had not been resolved. Mr. Wixon recommended the fine be imposed.

3:23:29

ON MOTION BY Mr. Hedin, SECONDED BY Mr. Petrulak, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve staff's recommendation.

It is noted for the record the Respondent was not present for this hearing.

3:24:21 **Case #2009020019 – Maria Martinez**

Mr. Wixon advised this case had first been to the Board on March 23, 2009 when the Respondent was granted 30 days to obtain current registration for a junk vehicle, with subsequent extensions being granted. Inspector Jefferson submitted a photograph into evidence, which is on file in the Commission Office, and said nothing had been done. Mr. Wixon recommended the fine be imposed.

3:25:38

ON MOTION BY Mr. Petrulak, SECONDED BY Mr. Hedin, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve staff's recommendation.

It is noted for the record the Respondent was not present for this hearing.

3:25:53 **Case #2009030032 – Chase Home Finance (Bryan Chesser)**

Mr. Wixon related this case had originally come before the Board on May 18, 2009 for overgrown weeds. Inspector Clifford testified she had inspected the property this morning and the yard had not been mowed. Mr. Wixon recommended the Board impose the fine.

3:27:27

ON MOTION BY Mr. Hedin, SECONDED BY Mr. Petrulak, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve staff's recommendation.

It is noted for the record the Respondent was not present for this hearing.

3:27:43 **Case #2009020201 – Fatima Johnson**

Mr. Wixon explained this case involved no building permit for modification of the main structure without permits, and had first been heard by the Board on March 23, 2009, with an extension of time subsequently being granted. Inspector Davis testified there had been no inspections done on a permit pulled for stucco, windows and doors; however there was also a room addition to the building that did not have a permit. Mr. Wixon recommended the fine be imposed.

3:30:20

ON MOTION BY Mr. Hedin, SECONDED BY Mr. Owens,

